January 2013

Volume 23, Issue 2

2013 Annual Meeting and Supervisor Election

The Gasconade County Soil & Water Conservation District (GCSWCD) will be hosting their 2013 Annual Meeting at the Owensville Middle School on March 14, 2013, beginning at 6 p.m.

The evening will begin with a Pork Dinner, compliments of the GCSWCD Board. We will be presenting the "Where Does Your Water Shed?" Poster Contest Awards and Landowner Awards.

Joy and Cynthia Haeffner will be presenting a program on "Agriculture in New Zealand." The Haeffners are local landowners who have just returned from a month long tour in New Zealand where they visited a variety of farms and learned about the agricultural practices being implemented there.

Reservations are required for the meal. Please call 573-437-3478
ext. 3 by the close of business on March
7th.

Board of Supervisors:

Ron Hardecke - Chairman Dennis Berger - Vice-Chairman Debra Nowack - Treasurer Michael Haeffner - Member James Thompson - Secretary

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District Staff:

Diana Mayfield - District Specialist II Kory Hubbard - District Technician I

NRCS Staff:

Melinda Barch - District Conservationist Mark Brandt - Resource Conservationist Megan Ordway - Soil Conservationist Grant Phillips - Soil Conservation Technician

MDC STAFF:

Kyle Lairmore, Private Lands Conservationist Scott Williams, Fisheries Biologist Aaron Holsapple - Forester Lee Hughs - Wildlife Biologist March 14th is also the day for our Board Supervisor Election. The nominating committees for the areas up for election have nominated the following candidates:

Area II, Roark and Boeuf Township.

Current Supervisor, Dennis Berger

Nominating Committee Members Brenda
Kurrelmeyer, Chairman; Jerome Winthorst and Cynthia Haeffner.

Dennis Berger. Dennis and his wife, Bobbie, have 4 children and 8 grandchildren. He has been farming for 40+ years and currently operates

a cow/ calf operation on 300 acres. Dennis is retired from Three



Rivers Electric and has been serving on the board for the last 4 years and currently serves as Vice-Chairman. He has applied such conservation practices as - terraces, waterways, rotational grazing, CRP, and CSP. He would like to continue to serve on the board in order to provide moral responsibility to local people and agriculture with the continued conservation of our natural resources. Dennis has actively participated in 4H, FFA, Jaycees, Masons, Farm Bureau, and the GCSWCD.

Ronald Gerlemann. Ron and his wife, Sherri have 4 children and they own and operate Dissen Repair for

the last 14 years. Ron has been farming 162 acres for 13 years on top of that.



They currently operate a cow/calf operation and they row crop wheat, corn, milo, and soybeans. He uses a no-till system for his croplands. He maintains and services all of his farm equipment as well. In addition to his no-till cropping, Ron has fenced out his ponds and creeks and has established an alternative watering system. If elected to the Board he would give a helping hand and advice on decision to be made by the soil & water committee. Ron is a member of the Missouri Cattlemen Association and St. George Church.

Area IV, Canaan and Brush Creek Township

Current Supervisor, Ron Hardecke
Nominating Committee Members are
Virginia Buschmeyer, Chairman; James
Schafer and Gus Schlottach.

Ron Hardecke. Ron and his wife, Krista, have 4 children. Ron has been farming for 40 years and currently farms 575 acres. They raise hogs, cattle, corn, soybeans, wheat, hay and fescue seed. Ron uses no-till

Continues on Page 2

and conservation tillage in the crop fields and they have installed waterways,



terraces with and without tile. They currently use rotational grazing and a nutrient management plan to utilize livestock nutrients. Ron has been on the GCSWCD Board for 14 years and currently serves as Chairman. Ron would like to continue to help landowners know what conservation practices will help them be most profitable on their farm and help tell the positive story of production agriculture to the public. Ron is a member of the Owensville First Baptist Church, Farm Bureau, MO Cattlemen Association, and MO Pork

Producers.

Matthew Estes. Matt has been farming for approximately 20 years on the family farm as well as own-

ing 150 acres of his own. The family farm is



geared towards a cow/calf operation. The entire farming operation covers 800 acres of owned and leased ground. They have 4 herds which consist of roughly 180 momma cows, 50 heifers, 45 late spring calves and 110 fall calves. The farm land is used for pasture and hay ground. They have integrated a rotational grazing system through

the EQIP program and it has greatly benefited the land and cattle operation. The additional cross fences have been placed in such a way as to give the farm extra benefits of protecting the streams and woodlands. They work diligently to control invasive plants species and they have developed a program to properly dispose of all used equipment fluids. If elected to the Board, Matt would hope that as a group, the board could help keep the community, adults and children alike, aware of the opportunities available to it through the soil and water conservation practices by providing both conservation education and cost-share opportunity information. Matt is employed at Rosebud Tractor and Equipment company and has four children. He is a member of the Owensville Lions Club and the Owensville United Church of Christ.







District Manager Diana Mayfield is the proud Grandma (Oma) of Kali Rose Mayfield-Bayhylle

Kali made her grand entrance in Cushing, Oklahoma, on January 5th, weighing in at 7 lbs, 19.75 inches long

Her parents are Bruce Bayhylle and Samantha Mayfield.

New Seeding Equipment at the Linn USDA Office

The Soil and Water Conservation District in Linn received a new Vicon seeder for landowners to use when broadcasting native grasses and food plot seed. The Vicon seeder came from a grant that was supported by multiple wildlife organizations including Quail Forever, National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Missouri Department of Conservation. The seeder can be towed behind an ATV, tractor, or truck, but we recommend a 500cc ATV or larger to ensure proper towing. Whether you have small fields or larger fields, this seeder will be able to seed in a more uniform distribution than the older broadcast seeders with its specialized broadcasting arm. The seeder can be rented out for \$25/day (8hrs). For more information contact the Osage County Soil and Water District at (573) 897-3797 (ext. 3).



Forage and Beef Conference

Monday, February 11, 2013

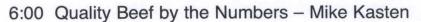
Cuba, Missouri Knights of Columbus I-44 East – Hwy. UU Exit

- 12:30 Registration
- 1:00 Pasture Renovation Rob Kallenbach, State Forage Specialist
- 1:45 Weed Management Considerations for Pastures and Hay Fields in Missouri Kevin Bradley, State Weed Science Specialist
- 2:30 BREAK
- 3:00 Grazing Management 101 Mark Kennedy, State Grassland Conservationist
- 3:45 Pasture Fertility Will McClain, Agronomy Specialist
- 4:30 BREAK
- 5:00 Producer Panel "Drought Adjustments in 2012"

 James Koepke Gasconade County

 Mike Bottom/Mike Hewkin Crawford County

 Tom Kloeppel Maries County



6:30 Dinner

RSVP by January 28, 2013 to the Crawford County Soil and Water Conservation District at 1-800-364-8732, ext. 3, or 573-364-6202, ext. 3.

There is a \$10.00 per person charge for the conference – payable at the door.

Sponsored by: Soil & Water Conservation Districts, University of Missouri Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Service in Crawford, Phelps, Maries, Dent, and Gasconade Counties, Maries County Bank and Branches, Crawford County Farm Bureau, Dent County Farm Bureau, Gasconade County Farm Bureau, Maries County Farm Bureau, Crawford County Cattlemen's Association, Bank of Salem, Peoples Bank in Cuba, Steelville, Sullivan and Bourbon, Bank of Sullivan's—Cuba Banking Center in Cuba, Sullivan, Union and Labadie, First Community National Bank in Cuba, Steelville, Sullivan, Rolla, Vienna and Eureka, Mid-America Bank and Town and Country Bank in Rolla, St. James, Salem and Bourbon.

USDA Programs and Assistance are available without regard to race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap, marital status or national origin.







2013 Seedling Order Forms

are available at the SWCD Office or on-line at mdc.mo.gov/node/3328

Deadline for ordering is **April 30, 2013.**

Prescribed Burn Workshop

A burn workshop is scheduled for Friday, February 15, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Linn Fire Protection District Station 1 (210 West Main in Linn, MO). Topics to be discussed are proper burn methods and techniques, burn equipment, and developing a burn plan. A demonstration, prescribed fire is planned following the classroom portion, given suitable weather conditions exist. For more information, call Osage County MDC Private Lands Conservationist Seth Barrioz at 573-897-3797 ext. 116.

The Gasconade County Soil and Water Conservation District does not endorse nor recommend any of the vendors/contractors advertised in this newsletter, furthermore, any contractor/vendor list can be added upon request.



Mid Missouri Soil Health Seminar



Featuring Gabe Brown, David Brandt, & Bill Lehmkuhl
Thursday, March 7th, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00
\$5 Admission. Pre-registration is required.
Isle of Capri Hotel, Flamingo Bay Ballroom
100 Isle of Capri Blvd, Boonville, MO



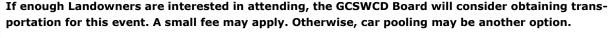
Gabe Brown, a nationally known no-tiller from North Dakota who uses cover crops, zero tillage, and the grazing of livestock to increase crop yields, low input costs, and improve the overall health of his farm's soil.

David Brandt, a no-tiller since 1971, who uses a variety of cover crops to improve soil structure, add nutrients, and increase yield for the next crop in the rotation.



Bill Lehmkuhl, a crop consultant who speaks nationally on planter setup and adjustment for optimum performance as well as a "systems approach" to soil.

Lunch will be provided as well as a copy of the Midwest Cover Crops Field Guide.



If you are interested in attending, please contact the GCSWCD at 573-437-3478 ext 3 by **February 21st.** *Space at the conference is limited so do not delay!*



FSA Updates



2011 CROP DISASTER ASSISTANCE SIGNUP:

• Producers that experienced at least a 10 percent production loss on one 2011 crop may sign up for the 2011 SURE program. To be eligible, crops must have been insured. For more information, please contact FSA at 573-437-4131, ext 2.

FARM BILL EXTENSION APPROVED:

- The provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill have been extended to September 30, 2013. The extended programs include, among others: the Direct and Counter-Cyclical Payment Program (DCP), the Average Crop Revenue Election Program (ACRE), and the Milk Income Loss Contract Program (MILC).
- FSA will begin sign-ups for DCP and ACRE for the 2013 crops on Feb. 19, 2013. The DCP sign-up period will end on Aug. 2, 2013; the ACRE sign-up period will end on June 3, 2013.

NEW CROP REPORTING DEADLINES:

- 2013 perennial & biennial forage crops (hay and pasture) must be reported by November 15, 2012
- 2013 Fall barley, wheat and other fall seeded small grains must be reported by December 15, 2012
- Due to this change, late-file fees do NOT apply. Those who have not completed acreage certification may still do so, without penalty. Please call the FSA office immediately.

INSURANCE FOR HAY AND PASTURE:

- FSA offers an insurance policy on hay and pasture, called NAP. Coverage is \$250 per year. The sales closing date is March 15, 2013. NOTE: In order to be eligible for any future disaster assistance on hay or pasture, insurance is required.
- FSA eALERTS:
- FSA is using eAlerts, a paperless way to receive FSA reminders by email or text. Hardcopy newsletters are being discontinued. For updates on new programs or upcoming deadlines, contact the FSA office to sign up for eAlerts today, at 573-437-4131, ext 2.

FARM STORED FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM (FSFL):

• Eligible producers can obtain a low-interest loan for 7, 10 or 12 years to build or upgrade storage or handling facilities. This program includes grain bins and hay barns. **January Interest Rate: 1.125%** (Fixed for a 7 year term)

Staff Receives Awards

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NRCS Resource Conservationist Mark Brandt and GCSWCD District Manager Diana Mayfield received awards from the Natural Resource Conservation Service for their service to the Gasconade County Landowners.

Mark Brandt was presented a Certificate of Merit for his extra efforts in providing sup-

port to the Gasconade County SWCD and Management of Farm Bill Program contracts. The



award was presented on January 9th by District Conservationist Melinda Barch on

behalf of
State
Conservationist
JR Flores.

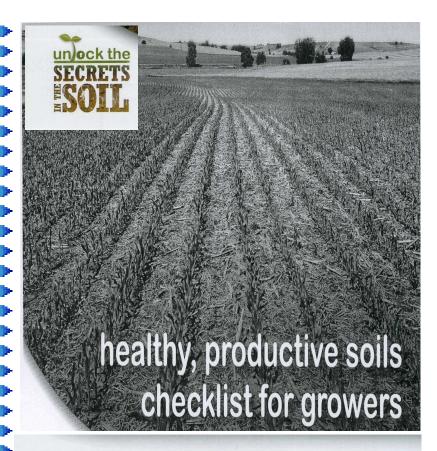
Diana Mayfield was surprised with her



award at the Board of Supervisor Meeting on January 17th. Melinda Barch presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation for exceptional administrative assistance to customers and NRCS in Gasconade County during Fiscal Year 2012.

Congratulations and thank you for your service to our landowners.

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Managing for soil health is one of the easiest and most effective ways for farmers to increase crop productivity and profitability while improving the environment.

Results are often realized immediately, and last well into the future. Using these four basic principles is the key to improving the health of your soil.

- 1. Keep the soil covered as much as possible
- 2. Disturb the soil as little as possible
- 3. Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil
- 4. Diversify as much as possible using crop rotation and cover crops

Use the checklist on the back of this page to determine if you're using some or all of the core Soil Health Management System farming practices.

It is important to note that not all practices are applicable to all crops. Some operations will benefit from just one soil health practice while others may require additional practices for maximum benefit. But these core practices form the basis of a Soil Health Management System that can help you optimize your inputs, protect against drought, and increase production.



www.nrcs.usda.gov

Helping People Help the Land USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Soil Health Management Systems Include:

What is it?

What does it do?

How does it help?



Conservation **Crop Rotation**

Growing a diverse number of crops in a planned sequence in order to increase soil organic matter and biodiversity in the soil.



- Increases nutrient cycling
- Manages plant pest (weeds, insects, and diseases)
- Reduces sheet, rill, and wind erosion
- Holds soil moisture
- Adds diversity so soil microbes can thrive
- Improves nutrient use efficiency
- Decreases use of pesticides



Cover Crop

An un-harvested crop grown as part of planned rotation to provide conservation benefits to the soil.



- Increases soil organic matter
- Prevents soil erosion
- Conserves soil moisture
- Increases nutrient cycling
- Provides nitrogen for plant use
- Suppresses weeds
- **Reduces compaction**
- Improves crop production Improves water quality Conserves water

- Improves nutrient use efficiency
- Decreases use of pesticides
- Improves water efficiency to crops



No Till

A way of growing crops without disturbing the soil through tillage.



- Improves water holding capacity of soils
- Increases organic matter
- Reduces soil erosion
- Reduces energy use
- **Decreases** compaction
- Improves water efficiency
- Conserves water
- Improves crop production
- Improves water quality
- Saves renewable resources
- Improves air quality



Mulch Tillage

Using tillage methods where the soil surface is disturbed but maintains a high level of crop residue on the surface.



- Reduces soil erosion from wind and rain
- Increases soil moisture for plants
- Reduces energy use
- Increases soil organic matter
- Conserves water
- Saves renewable resources
- Improves air quality



Mulching

Applying plant residues or other suitable materials to the soil surface to compensate for loss of



- Reduces erosion from wind and rain
- Moderates soil temperatures
- Increases soil organic matter Controls weeds
- Conserves soil moisture
- Reduces dust

- Improves water quality
- Increases crop production Reduces pesticide usage Conserves water
- Improves air quality



Nutrient Management

Managing soil nutrients to meet crop needs while minimizing the impact on the environment and the soil.



- Increases plant nutrient uptake
- Improves the physical, chemical, and biological properties of the soil
- Budgets, supplies, and conserves nutrients for plant production
- Reduces odors and nitrogen emissions
- Improves water quality
- Improves air quality



Pest Management

Managing pests by following an ecological approach that promotes the growth of healthy plants with strong defenses, while increasing stress on pests and enhancing the habitat for beneficial organisms.



- Reduces pesticide risks to water quality
- Reduces threat of chemicals entering the air
- Decreases pesticide risk to pollinators and other beneficial organisms
- Increases soil organic matter
- Improves water quality
- Improves air quality
- Increases plant pollination
- Increases plant productivity



Gasconade County SWCD

314 Olive Street Owensville, MO 65066 (573) 437-3478 ext. 3 FAX: (573) 437-4771 STD U.S. Postage PAID Owensville, MO Permit No. 8

Dates to Remember

February 5, 2013	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service
	Center, 7 p.m.
February 18, 2013	Presidents Day Holiday, Office Closed
February 28, 2013	Poster contest Ends
March 5, 2013	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service
	Center, 7 p.m.
March 14, 2013	Annual Meeting/Election, Owensville
	Middle School, 6 p.m.
April 2, 2013	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service
	Center, 7:30 p.m.
May 7, 2013	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service
	Center, 7:30 p.m.
May 16-17, 2013	Tri-County Grazing School, Linn, MO
May 27, 2013	Memorial Day Holiday, Office closed
June 4, 2013	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service
	Center, 7:30 p.m.
June 14, 2013	Cost-share Year Ends
July 2, 2013	Board of Supervisor Mtg, USDA Service
	Center, 7:30 p.m.
July 4, 2013 Page 8	Independence Day Holiday, Office Closed

Gasconade County SWCD Equipment

LEASE AGREEMENT MUST BE ON FILE AT THE SWCD OFFICE BEFORE EQUIPMENT CAN BE RENTED.

Drill charge: Minimum charge of \$100.00 for less than 10 acres usage. An additional \$10.00 will be charged for each additional acre under 50 acres. There will be an \$9.00 per acre charge for 50 acres or more.

For Scheduling of equipment, please call the SWCD office at 573-437-3478 ext 3, unless other wise indicated.

- John Deere 10 ft no-till drill is located at James Miller, Second Creek Farms, 2828 Hwy 19 Owensville. Call 573-690-9065 or 314-609 -7905 to schedule.
- ♦ Great Plains 7 ft no-till drill with warm season box is located at the SWCD office.

Located at the SWCD Office:

- ♦ Rotowiper \$25 a day
- ATV Equipment (Seeder, Sprayer, Disk) -\$100 deposit, \$20 a day each piece or \$50 for all three
- ♦ ATV Warm Season Grass Seeder—no charge— Donated by Quail Unlimited

♦ Soil Probe - no charge

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